

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 06480 291655Z

51

ACTION ST-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 A-01 L-03 /016 W

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R 291623Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1343

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

US DESPATCH AGENT NEW YORK

UNCLAS LA PAZ 6480

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ATRN BL

SUBJ: AIR FREIGHT AMBASSADOR STEDMAN

REF: A. LA PAZ 5447; B. STATE 178149; C. LA PAZ 5711;

D. LIMA 6939; E. STATE 191622; F. LA PAZ 5958;

G. LIMA 7371; H. LA PAZ 6264; I. B.A. 7114

STATE FOR ST

1. I WOULD BE VERY APPRECIATIVE IF THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ASK AN APPROPRIATE SENIOR OFFICIAL OF BRANIFF AIRLINES TO REDOUBLE EFFORTS TO LOCATE MY TWO TRUNKS OF PERSONAL EFFECTS WHICH WERE DISPATCHED FROM MY RESIDENCE IN WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 29 AND WHICH HAVE AS YET NOT AS YET ARRIVED IN LA PAZ. I RECOMMEND THAT DEPT. ASK BRANIFF TO DETAIL A SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR TO INSPECT EACH AIRPORT ON THE LA PAZ-MIAMI-NEW YORK RUN TO CHECK BOTH BRANIFF BAGGAGE AREAS AND THE AIRPORT CUSTOMS AREAS. IF HIS REPORT IS NEGATIVE, THEN THE TRUNKS MUST BE DEFINITELY LOST AND I ASSUME MY NEXT STEP IS TO FILE A FORMAL CLAIM WITH BRANIFF TO COVER MY LOSS, WHICH IS GREAT.

2. THE FOLLOWING RECAPITULATION MAY HELP. I HAVE A RECEIPT FROM PINTO TRUCKING SERVICE INC., WASH. NATIONAL AIRPORT, WASHINGTON, D.C. 26814, CONFIRMING THE PICK-UP ON AUGUST 29 OF TWO TRUNKS OF PERSONAL EFFECTS. BANDING WAS AUTHORIZED AND WAS REQUESTED. I HOPE IT WAS DONE. BOTH ARE PACKING  
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 06480 291655Z

TRUNKS; ONE BROWNISH AND THE OTHER BLACK. BRANIFF SHIPPED

THE TRUNKS ON AIRWAY BILL 002-13919404. STATE TELEGRAM  
191622 OF 26 SEPT. REPORTS THAT THE TRUNKS WERE ON BOARD BRANIFF  
FLIGHT 979 WHICH DEPARTED WASHINGTON ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 1  
FOR MIAMI, LIMA, LA PAZ AND BUENOS AIRES. BUENOS AIRES TELEGRAM  
7114 REPORTS THAT TWO TRUNKS AIRFREIGHT OVER-  
CARRIED LA PAZ BUT WERE RESHIPED SEPTEMBER 6 ON FLIGHT 974  
TO LA PAZ. THESE TRUNKS WERE NOT OFFLOADED IN LA PAZ, ACCORD-  
ING TO THE LOCAL BRANIFF OFFICE. OUR GSO HAS MADE A PERSONAL  
INSPECTION OF THE BRANIFF BAGGAGE AREA AND CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE  
AT THE EL ALTO AIRPORT TO NO AVAIL. LIMA TELEGRAM  
7371 OF OCTOBER 5 REPORTS THAT THE BRANIFF OFFICE THERE  
HAS INFORMED THAT THE AIR FREIGHT IS NOT IN LIMA. THIS IS  
THE LAST REPORT THAT THIS POST HAS RECEIVED ABOUT THE  
TRUNKS. THE LOCAL BRANIFF OFFICE HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE AND  
SENT CABLES TO ASCERTAIN WHERE THE TRUNKS WERE CARRIED WHEN  
THEY BY-PASSED LA PAZ ON SEPT. 6, BUT TO DATE THEY REPORT NO  
SUCCESS. THE DESPATCH AGENT IN NEW YORK HAS NOT REPLIED  
TELEGRAPHICALLY TO OUR REQUEST CONTAINED IN REFTELS F AND H.

3. I HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH ME THAT THIS IS  
INCREDIBLY POOR AND UNSATISFACTORY TREATMENT OF A REQUEST  
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR CARRIAGE OF UNACCOMPANIED AIRFREIGHT  
REGARDLESS OF THE PERSON TO WHOM IT IS DESTINED.  
I TRUST THAT NO PAYMENT WAS MADE FOR THE SHIPMENT, BUT IF IT  
WERE, THEN THAT AMOUNT MIGHT REASONABLY BE INCLUDED IN MY  
CLAIM. SINCE DELAYS IN CARRYING AIRFREIGHT TO LA PAZ ARE  
NOT UNCOMMON, WOULD IT BE FEASIBLE FOR THE DEPT. TO  
NEGOTIATE AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY ANY DELIVERY TAKING MORE THAN  
TWO WEEKS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PENALTY REDUCTIONS IN FREIGHT  
CHARGES?  
STEDMAN

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